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Statement of H.E. Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Apostolic Nuncio

and Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations

and Other International Organizations in Geneva, at the 46th Session

of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: CHILE

Geneva, 30 April 2024

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the presentation of the National Report of Chile on the occasion of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

My Delegation commends the ongoing implementation of the Country’s Prison Infrastructure Investment Plan for persons deprived of their liberty and prison staff.

The Holy See would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Develop and expand safe and legal pathways for receiving migrants, respecting their dignity and rights.
2. Facilitate the processing of visas for foreign missionaries who wish to enter and work in the Country.
3. Scale up efforts to protect religious communities from all forms of violence and harassment, including by taking all necessary preventive measures to guarantee their safety and the security of their places of worship and other properties.
4. Uphold the independence of religious organizations, allowing them to operate free from undue external interference.
5. Guarantee in all circumstances the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion as a fundamental human right.

Thank you, Mr. President.